

1	2	3	4
2	The renovation of Gompas at Hemis	20.00	09.20
3.	Tourist Complex at Nubra	25.00	12.00
	Total	73.00	31.20

Stoppage of Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express at Kopargaon Station

1016 SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hazrat Nizamuddin-Londa Goa Express 2479 UP and 2480 DN train does not stop at Kopargaon (Maharashtra) station;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide a stoppage of this train at Kopargaon for the followers of 'Sai Baba' to visit Shirdi; and

(c) if so, the time by which the stoppage is likely to be provided at the Kopargaon station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Railway Reservation System

1017 SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated September 12, 1996 captioned 'Railway Ke Aarakshan Kendron Ki Halat Bhayavah'.

(b) if so, the facts thereof

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government to improve the condition of these Railway reservation centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). New software named CONCERT was introduced in Delhi Passenger Reservation System (PRS) in replacement of old software on 9.9.96. To enable the data to be converted to make it suitable to the new software, advance reservation work was closed on 8.9.96 as this activity could not be carried out while simultaneously carrying on the reservation work at the counters. The reservations for the current days trains and those leaving from the train originating stations upto 1200 hrs. of 9.9.96 were handled manually and for this necessary arrangements had been made at various train originating stations.

Wide publicity about the closure of the reservation office of Delhi PRS on 8th September, 96 was given to the public well in advance through all leading newspapers as well as through Akashvani and Doordarshan. The new software started functioning from the morning of 9.9.96. There were teething problems on 9th and 10th September when some of the terminals intermittently malfunctioned. This affected the reservation work at various locations, causing inconvenience to passengers and was the cause of the adverse publicity in the Nav Bharat Times of September 12, 1996.

Necessary steps have been taken to ensure that system functions smoothly and without interruption to passenger bookings. For this purpose a close watch is being maintained over the software round the clock and no serious problem has been reported after 19th September, 1996.

[English]

Privatisation of Services Sectors in the Trains

1018. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to privatise some of the services sectors in the trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facilities are satisfactory and have already been extended to several trains; and

(d) if not, the reasons for privatising services in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d). Various services on trains such as catering, bed rolls, leasing of accommodation for carriage of parcels in luggage compartment of passenger trains had been entrusted to private parties on a few trains. Based on experience gained, a decision has been taken to manage the bed rolls supply departmentally.

Sanction of Chapter for Institute of Travel and Tourism Management

1019 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had urged the Union Government to Sanction Chapter for the Institute of Travel and Tourism Management which will assist in making available trained manpower in the State

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether on 5th August, 95 Tourism Minister's Conference had laid emphasis on the development of tourism throughout the country;